



CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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IRISH NEWS.

The late Mr. James Morris, of Dangan house, Thomastown, Kilkenny, has bequeathed £50 each to the parish priests of Thomastown and Rathnines, for the poor of both parishes.

The Very Rev. Canon Quinn, V.G., and lately P.P. of Athy, Co. Kildare, has succeeded the Most Rev. Dr. McCaba, Archbishop of Dublin, in the parish of Kingstown, Co. Dublin.

A new church has been erected at Clonoulty, County Tipperary, from design by Mr D. J. Freeman, of Dublin. The Very Rev. Canon Wall, P.P., must be gratified at the completion of this arduous undertaking.

The new cathedral of Queenstown, though unfinished, has been opened for service by the lord bishop. The inconvenience of the temporary arrangements decided his lordship to do this, and much satisfaction is felt by the people accordingly.

The late Mr. C. Byrne, of Garristown, county Dublin, farmer, has bequeathed £20 to the Drogheda fair, £20 to the Deaf and Dumb institution at Cabra, £20 to Clonliffe College, £200 to the P.P. of Garristown for the church in course of building, and the remainder of his property is to be invested for the poor of the same parish.

The Catholic priests of Kerry have passed a resolution, in the form of a manifesto, declaring that the present year is the most calamitous for Kerry farmers since the great famine, and that through bad harvests, high rents and foreign competition, which is likely to increase rather than diminish, the tenants will be unable to pay their rents unless the landlords reduce them.

There are on the coast of Kerry little islands called the Blaskets, inhabited by a poor and primitive population, whose nearest church is on the shores of the mainland. On stormy days they cannot cross "to hear Mass," but they kneel by their rocky coast bars-headed in the open air. The progress of the ceremony is made known to them by the waving of flags, and their prayers accompany those of the priest.

European Items.

The general assembly of the Irish Presbyterian church has passed a resolution expressing a determination to maintain in its integrity the principle of united non-sectarian education, as opposed to a denominational system.

At Manchester an inquest was held on the body of a female named Annie Spencer, and evidence was given showing that death was in a great measure due to her having used a hair-dye, for the purpose of turning her black hair into a golden hue.

At a meeting of the Home Rule league in Dublin, Mr. Shaw, M.P., said he only temporarily occupied the position of leader. He trusted the parliamentary party would find a more fitting representative. He had great hopes that they would succeed in carrying the O'Connor Dou's bill this session, and urged the necessity of preparing for the general election.

M. de Lousseps attended the literary congress in London, and, having referred to the Suez canal said he trusted in a few months to succeed in a further task—that of commencing the works of the canal through the Isthmus of Panama. He was warmly applauded. The congress elected as members the King of the Belgians, the King of Portugal, and President Grevy.

A question is to be asked the secretary of state for war as to whether he sees any objection to permit all ranks of the army—following the example of his royal highness the field-marshal commanding-in-chief, field-marshal his royal highness the prince of Wales, his serene highness the Prince of Saxe Weimar, commanding the southern district, and of the officers and men of the royal navy—to wear their beards.

Lieut.-Gen. P. Sheridan and St. Patrick's Society.

The following letters have been received by Mr. Cross, corresponding Secretary of St. Patrick's Society:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI, Chicago, June 24, 1879.

SAMUEL CROSS, Esq., Corresponding secretary St. Patrick's Society:

DEAR SIR,—I have just returned from a tour of inspection in New Mexico, and among other letters awaiting my attention I find yours of the 31st May last, conveying the kind and courteous invitation of St. Patrick's Society to attend their next annual picnic on the 1st of July proximo.

I regret exceedingly that my military duties will not permit of my absence on the date named, and I beg you to convey to the Society my regrets at my inability to be with them on that occasion, and my high appreciation of their friendly consideration.

I am, sir, With great respect, Very truly yours, P. H. SHERIDAN, Lieutenant-General U. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI, Chicago, June 24th, 1879.

E. B. O'NEILL, Esq., President St. Patrick's Society, Montreal:

DEAR SIR,—Many thanks for your hearty invitation by telegraph on the 31st of May. At that time I was somewhere in the southern range of the Rocky Mountains and beyond the reach of wire and mails, so I only received the despatch upon my return from New Mexico, a day or two ago. I have written Mr. Cross, the corresponding secretary, telling him that my military duties will prevent my acceptance of the invitation, and I write now to let you know that your tele-

gram would have been promptly acknowledged had I been in Chicago, and to say to you that I fully appreciate both your own and the society's kind and courteous action in the case.

I am, dear sir, Very truly yours, P. H. SHERIDAN, Lieut.-General U. S. Army. No. 8339. OTTAWA, June 26th, 1879.

Sir,—I have been requested to inform you that a letter written by you to the Hon. Mr. Mason, Minister of Militia and Defence, asking for authority to invite an American regiment from New York to visit the city of Montreal on Dominion day, was accidentally mislaid, and I am desired to express the minister's regret at this occurrence, which prevented an answer being sent. He also wishes me to intimate to you that the government have since decided not to allow any armed body of troops from foreign countries to visit the Dominion.

I have the honor to be, sir, Your most obedient servant, AUG. PARKER, JR., DEP. M. of M. and D. Samuel Cross, Esq., Corresponding Secretary St. Patrick's Society, Montreal.

The Irish Anti-Landlord Agitation.

Some of our Irish provincial papers, writes our (Fall Mill Gazette) correspondent, rebuke Mr. Parnell for the character of his speech at Westport, and deprecate any angry agitation under present circumstances which would inflame animosity between landlords and tenants. The news from the country parts of Ireland is now much more favorable, the growth of grass being rapid, and the farmers in much better spirits than was the case three weeks ago. A Dublin correspondent telegraphs:—Mr. Parnell writes to-day a letter to the Freeman's Journal upon his speech at Westport, expressing astonishment that its susceptibilities were offended by his address, and asking where it splintered communism therein. He adds: "You say truly that it is right first to appeal to the sense of justice of the Irish landlords, and I have no doubt there are many who will respond to such an appeal; but you must also know that it is hopeless to seek for mercy or justice from many others. What is to be done in these cases? Are the human beings subject to them to be abandoned to their fate? Or shall we not rather encourage the spirit of determination and self-reliance, and those who would otherwise be helpless serfs, and by bringing public opinion to bear upon the evildoers, compel respect for natural laws."

THE ZULU WAR.

Cetwayo wants Peace Almost at Any Price.

LONDON, June 29.—Advices from Capetown to the 10th of June state that the body of the deceased prince, after a funeral parade at which Lord Chelmsford was chief mourner, was removed to Pietermaritzburg, where it lay in state in the Catholic church. The body will arrive at Durban on the 10th instant, and be escorted by the whole of the garrison on board the man-of-war Boadicea for conveyance to Simon bay, where it will be transferred to H. M. S. Orontes for transportation to England.

Despatches dated at Pietermaritzburg, June 9th, announce that the peace messengers had returned to Cetwayo. Virtually there is a fortnight's armistice; nearly all the special despatches to London newspapers from the Cape agree in pronouncing the peace overture bona fide.

The Standard has the following under date Durban, June 9th:—The coffin containing the remains of the prince imperial on arrival at Pietermaritzburg was

WRAPPED IN THE FRENCH COLORS.

The prince's sword and helmet were placed thereon and his horse led after it.

In the skirmish in which Adjutant Frith, of the 17th Lancers, was killed, the enemy numbered 1,500, and were repulsed by the cavalry, many being killed. More peace messengers have come into Lord Chelmsford's camp. The messengers were informed of the

ADDITIONAL TERMS OF PEACE,

which are that the king's regiments disarm, Cetwayo not to assemble an army for five years, the king to pay a fine of two bullocks for every male Zulu. A considerable portion of the cattle to be distributed to chiefs who surrendered to the English, and an English resident to be placed at Ulundi. The terms have not yet been answered. A despatch from Lower Tugela, 10th June, says the peace messengers declare any terms will be acceptable.

LONDON, June 30.—Further advices from Capetown state that a searching enquiry is being made into the circumstances attending the death of the prince imperial. The proceedings thus far have elicited evidence of a most conflicting nature. Several heavy cavalry skirmishes have taken place with the Zulus, who are numerous and daring.

A very amusing scene transpired in the justice court in Naugatuck recently. A constable was preferring a charge against a party whom he had arrested for drunkenness or rather was giving in his testimony relative to the case. "The prisoner," he said "was lying drunk upon the steps of May's drug store; he was abusive in his language to passers-by, besides which he called me a fool." The prisoner conducted his own defence and at this point he said, "You mean to say that I called you a fool, do you?" "I do," was the reply. Then turning to the court the prisoner said, "I would ask the court if the fact of my calling that man a fool is any evidence that I was drunk?"

The Last of the O'Donnells of France.

A well-known Paris correspondent, writing a short time since, says that Count O'Donnell, councillor maitre at the Cour des Comtes, died in that city on Saturday, May 24th. He was the son of Count O'Donnell, councillor of state, and held a high position as a judge. He leaves no issue, and by his death the O'Donnells of France, who since the time of James II. were so much distinguished in the army and in the magistrature, are extinct. The father of the noble Irishman so much regretted to-day presided at the dinner of the Ancients in 1864. He had married the sister of Madame Emile Girardin (Sophia Gay), and the late count was consequently the nephew of that celebrated writer.

The coffin was literally covered with wreaths of flowers. Ten members of the cour des comptes, in their velvet and satin robes and ermine, accompanied the hearse to the cemetery of Pere La Chaise. Ireland was represented by Count de Nugent, Viscount O'Neill de Tyrone, Count O'Mahony, grandson of General O'Mahony, of the Irish Brigade; Mr. Arthur O'Connor, grandson of Gen. Arthur O'Connor; J. P. Leonard, etc.

By a strange coincidence the priest who read the last prayers when the coffin was lowered into the vault was born in Cork, and is proud of having been baptized by Father Mathew half a century ago—Albe Vattennere, so well known for his good works and his sympathy with Irishmen in their days of sorrow.

The grave rarely closed over a man of whom a country may be more proud than of Count O'Donnell.

The British Grain Trade.

A cable despatch quotes the Mark Lane Express of the 24th inst. as follows:—

"Wheat promises but fairly on mixed and light soils, and its condition on heavy lands causes well-founded apprehensions. The condition of the pastures is now satisfactory, if not luxuriant, but the hay crop probably has suffered in quality in consequence of an absence of sunshine. The general aspect of the country is almost a month behindhand. The Scotch root crops urgently require a return of sunshine. The quietude in the grain trade during the past week was, in a great measure, due to a continuance of large imports as well as a slight amelioration of the weather. The arrivals of foreign wheat in London up to Friday amounted to 58,000 qrs., principally from North Russian ports. The deliveries at the principal country markets indicate that the farmers hold far more abundant reserves than was expected. The depressing influence of these deliveries have counteracted any apprehensions of a deficient English harvest, and prices are unchanged. The demand for all classes of wheat has been limited, apparently in consequence of a belief by buyers that the lowest point had not yet been reached. There has been some slight exception in favour of American wheats which were rather actively dealt in at the beginning of the week. Nothing is likely to interrupt the prevalent monotony pending a not improbable revival of the continental demand. Maize was less inquired for. Barley was dull. Oats have declined 6d per quarter. The arrivals of wheat and maize at ports of call have continued moderate. Wheat off the coast was steady, with a fair continental demand for white descriptions. Maize declined 6d per quarter on the week. Forward business in wheat and maize was limited. Good spring wheats were sparingly offered, but at the close shippers showed more disposition to sell. Maize declined 3d in consequence of heavy shipments from Atlantic ports. The sales of English wheat during last week were 49,426 quarters at 48s 6d per quarter, against 26,546 quarters at 46s 9d per quarter for the same period last year. The imports into the United Kingdom during the week ending June 14 were 87,335 cwt. of wheat and 193,663 cwt. of flour."

The Conversion of John Mitchell's Daughter.

Not only in the old country, but also on this side of the Atlantic, have the publications of converts to the Catholic church by the Whitehall Review caused surprise by the numbers it revealed (consisting, too, of the noblest and most learned in the British dominion) as having "gone over to Rome" within some thirty years. The names and distinctions of the parties must convince any reasoning individual that the whole Christian world is fast tending either to Catholicism or to infidelity. It is strange to have to say it, but is nevertheless true, that few remarks are made of blame or reproach, against those who drift into the latter sad, gloomy state of religious feeling—while they who join the holy Catholic church are at once assailed by bigots of every sect, and condemned in no measured terms. What a pleasing contrast does the conduct of the late John Mitchell present to that of such persons? As he was an exile in this free land for having loved his country not wisely but too well, and so many here still will remember him, the account given of how he acted on the conversion of his daughter cannot fail to be of interest. The following is an extract from a continuation of Mitchell's jail journal, taken from his journal, the Irish Citizen, of March 19, 1872:

"Our oldest daughter, Henrietta, has this winter become a Catholic. It is no new whim on her part, for long since, while we were living at Washington, she had formed the same wish very strongly, influenced partly, as I suppose, by her intimacy with two young ladies of a Maryland Catholic family, who were our next-door neighbors. I know, also, that she was greatly influenced by her very strong Irish feeling, and had a kind of sentiment that one cannot be thoroughly Irish without being Catholic. For that time, however, we had objected to any decided and public step being taken in this direction. She was too young to have duly studied the question and to know her own mind thoroughly, but I said that if, after two or three years, she should entertain the same wish, I would not utter one word to dissuade her. Since our

arrival in France she had been placed in school in the convent of the Sacre Cour, and has become greatly attached to one of the good ladies of that house, Madame D—, a very excellent and accomplished woman. This condition of things was not calculated to abate her Catholic zeal, and, in short, the time came when my dear daughter declared that she must be a Catholic—could not live without being a Catholic. I did not think her parents had the right—and, indeed, they had not the disposition—to cross her wish any further. So on a certain day she and another young lady were to be baptized in the chapel of the convent. The Archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Morlot, heard of it and wrote to the reverend Mother of the house to the effect that as several conversions of Protestant pupils which had lately taken place in the convents had given rise to imputations of undue influence and conversion by surprise, as it were, and had afterwards given umbrage to the relatives, he should require that, before any further step were taken, I should be asked for a written consent. Madame D— showed me the letter, and I instantly wrote the required consent. For this acquiescence I was most earnestly blamed by some of my connections in the north of Ireland, who wrote to me, urging that I ought to exert my authority to stop any such apostasy. What would they have me to do? Shut up my daughter in her room and give her the Westminster confession to read? How should I like this usage myself? Here was a girl of nineteen, full of intelligence and spirit, gentle and affectionate, who had never given to her father and mother one moment's uneasiness on her account, deliberately declaring that she desired to embrace the ancient faith of her forefathers. In short, I believe that I acted right. For the short remainder of her days she remained a devout Catholic, and so died. She lies buried in the cemetery of Mount Larnesse."—Catholic Union.

The Mollen Lake of Kilkenny, Sandwich Islands.

We stood on a low cliff overhanging the lake, and threw stones into the pool of melted rock below. At the base of the cliff opposite us, in three places, a violent surging was constantly taking place, the melted rock being thrown up high above the cliff by violent discharges of gas from below. The noise was like that of waves of the beating sea against rocks. There seemed to be no tenacity in the melted lava; it splashed about just like water. As the water fell back from the bases of the cliffs, pendant conglutinations of lava were formed for an instant and hung in the glowing cavities like icicles; but were remelted in a moment by the returning waves, which, when thrown up were glowing brightly with heat. The lake itself was covered with a thick black scum of conglutinated lava with red-hot cracks in it, and the whole scum moved slowly round, as if in a cauldron, under the influence of the ebullition. The waves dashing against cliffs threw high into the air masses of fiery spray, which cooling as it fell, formed the threads known as Pele's hair, like fine spun green glass. Pele's hair thus formed drifts away with the wind and hangs in felted masses about the rocks; and the birds sometimes gather it and make their nests of it.—from "Notes by a Naturalist on the Challenger," by H. W. Mosely.

Serpent Worship in South Africa.

Most, if not all, native tribes in South Africa are snake or spirit-worshippers. With the Zulus it is a speciality. If certain kinds of snakes are found in a kraal, a Zulu would no more dare to kill them than he would to kill his own life. The poor native is often horrified by witnessing the unceremonious destruction of somebody's grandfather by the fearless white man. Zulus go so far as to say that they have seen a serpent with one eye, and that it must be the embodiment of the spirit of an old man who died in Zululand long ago, who had been deprived of one of these members. When argued with on the impossibility of the spirit serpent crossing the numerous rivers between Zululand and the place where it was seen—it is not being a watersnake—they reply: "It surely crossed somehow." According to Zulu theology, good and evil are attributable to the benevolent agency of the ancestral spirits. If prosperous in any undertaking, lucky in hunting, harvesting a good crop, or returned safely from a long journey, a thank-offering is paid to the friendly spirits. If unfortunate, seriously ill, or bereaved, a propitiatory sacrifice is offered. A fat cow or sheep is slaughtered, and a portion of the beef or mutton laid aside for the offended spirit, which is taken—the Zulus say—at midnight.

The Texas Legislature.

(E. V. Smalley in New York Tribune.) I visited the legislature this morning, going first to the house. The hall is tolerably well adapted for the purpose, but is dirty and shabby. When I entered the house the clerk was endeavouring to read a bill and smoke a cigar at the same time; and most of the members were smoking with their feet on the desks. The speaker had collapsed into his big chair and was quite invisible from the front, and the whole body had a wild, western free-and-easy air. I lighted a cigarette and found a seat next to a venerable colored member, who had removed one of his boots to ease his bunions, and had elevated the relieved foot to a position within two inches of the right ear of the white member just in front of him.

Natural Eloquence.

One of the best things that has been brought to our notice is the reply a member of the Louisiana constitutional convention made to a white member, who abused and ridiculed him, and moved that a speech he (the colored member) had made should be translated into all the known languages and dialects for the guidance of suffering humanity. Nobody laughed, but the colored man arose and replied: "Mr. Chairman: I was formerly a slave.

The results of the war emancipated me, and simultaneously placed me under the obligation of fitting myself to discharge the duties of citizenship. While the gentleman from Orleans was perfecting himself in all those languages to which he refers, I was picking cotton. The years that I spent in picking cotton he devoted to his moral and intellectual improvement; yet I think I may be pardoned for saying that he might have put his varied accomplishments to a more creditable use than in thus striving to ridicule and deride me in my effort to promote an end I consider right and proper.

France and Germany.

A recent German author, Karl Hillebrand frankly confesses the superiority of French to German literature. "French literature," he says, "indeed the whole spiritual life of France has a freer, more man-of-the-world manner than our literature (the German), which has been concentrated in the universities—that is to say, in schools and provincial towns for the last three hundred years. With the exception of Lessing, Goethe, and Schopenhauer, we have scarcely a writer of eminence who was not a professor or a tutor. . . . Our culture has come forth from libraries and lecture-rooms, the English and French from the bar and politics; both have thereby gained a certain grandiose trait which is absent from ours. . . . In Germany, since the decay of the well-to-do middle class and the independent nobility and gentry, all intellectual activity has been left to pastors and professors. Our literature may have gained thereby in depth and seriousness; it certainly has not in taste or liberality of view."

Archbishop Macfalle on the State of Ireland.

The following important letter from Archbishop Macfalle, dated Westport, June 5, appeared in a contemporary, on Saturday last:—"DEAR SIR—In a telegraphic message exhibited towards the end of last week, in a public room in this town, an Irish member of parliament has unwittingly expressed his readiness to attend a meeting convened in a mysterious and disorderly manner, which is to be held, it seems, in Westport, on Sunday next. Of the sympathy of the Catholic clergy for the rack-rented tenantry of Ireland, and of their willingness to co-operate earnestly in redressing their grievances, abundant evidence exists in historic Mayo as elsewhere. But night patrolling, acts and words of menace, with arms in hand, the profanation of what is most sacred in religion—all the results of lawless and occult association, eminently merit the solemn condemnation of the ministers of religion, as directly tending to impiety and disorder in church and society. Against such combinations in this diocese, organized by a few designing men, who, instead of the well-being of the community, seek only to promote their personal interests, the faithful clergy will not fail to raise their warning voices, and to point out to the people that unallotted combinations lead invariably to disaster, and to the sterner revivings of the chains by which we are unhappily bound as a subordinate people to a dominant race. I remain, dear sir, Faithfully yours, J. J. J. J., Archbishop of Tuam."

Lady Strangford and General Gourko.

The Moscow Gazette publishes a somewhat singular story about Lady Strangford, which it says has been going the round of London. When Dr. Russell, the ex-Texas correspondent, so runs the story, was calling on Lady Strangford the other day, he heard from her Ladyship an immense amount of abuse of the Russians. "But, at least, Lady Strangford," he ventured to say, "you must have met a *preux chevalier* amongst them, and that was General Gourko?" "Gourko?" she exclaimed, "he was as great a brute as any of them. He spat in my face, and swore at me dreadfully." "Spat in your face, sure?" Lady Strangford, you do not literally mean that?" "Indeed I do," she said. "But do you authorize me to repeat that dreadful story, and say that General Gourko actually spat in your face?" "Yes; I do not only authorize you to say so, but I hope you will tell every one you know. It ought to be known what brutes those Russians are." Dr. Russell shortly afterwards repeated to the Prince of Wales the story, and the latter, quite indignant, told Count Schouvaloff, the first time he met him of the outrage on Lady Strangford. The ambassador was incredulous, and he said he would write to Gourko. In due course an answer came from the embarrassed General. He categorically and indignantly denied the charge, and sent copies of letters which he had received from Lady Strangford, which were filled with expressions of gratitude for various services of kindness and courtesy which she had rendered at his hands. Armed with copies of these notes, Dr. Russell again called on Lady Strangford. The dear lady at once confessed she had written them, but she declared that she had done so in order to conciliate Gourko. "It was in his power," she said, "and I did not know what he would do next?" "Well, but really, Lady Strangford," rejoined Dr. Russell, "you do not mean to repeat that he actually spat in your face?" "Well," she replied, "I am sure he spat somewhere! I saw him spit somewhere." "And he swore at you?" "Oh yes, dreadfully!" "Now, what did he say?" "Well," replied her ladyship, "you see it was all in Russian, and I do not know that language."

Esprit de Corps.

I am informed that the war department, while on the one hand carrying out some admirable details of army reform, are disposed to go back on the old ground as regards other items. It is contemplated, if not concluded, to abolish the rank of sub-commissioned officer, and substitute the term sub-officer. I have not learnt how the different grades from the sergeant-major to the lance-corporal will be distinguished, but I suppose the style and title are generic, and not intended for classification. The war minister has, I learn, taken more than serious thought about restoring to the light infantry regiments those green plumes which looked gay on the Hindoo shako, and will be really martial and picturesque on that helmet. It is thought that the grenade and bugles of brass which used to distinguish the flank companies of a regiment will also be restored. There was great regret and dissatisfaction when these distinctions were taken away, and the grandeur company and the "light bobs" confounded with the "grabbies" of the corps. It is known that more than one crack regiment held a military funeral burying a plume or a metal decoration with the honors of war, and undoubtedly the esprit de corps was injured by the order, the restoration of which will give much pleasure to Tommy Atkins, and his officer both.

The results of the war emancipated me, and simultaneously placed me under the obligation of fitting myself to discharge the duties of citizenship. While the gentleman from Orleans was perfecting himself in all those languages to which he refers, I was picking cotton. The years that I spent in picking cotton he devoted to his moral and intellectual improvement; yet I think I may be pardoned for saying that he might have put his varied accomplishments to a more creditable use than in thus striving to ridicule and deride me in my effort to promote an end I consider right and proper.

The Sahara.

A New York civil engineer makes the following rather startling suggestion:—Various publications have appeared in different parts, particularly in the London papers, setting forth a proposed plan of flooding the desert of Sahara, thereby making it an ocean or inland sea, by opening a canal or channel from the Atlantic ocean. The depth and size of the desert below the level of the ocean is stated as 500 to 750 feet; the area in square miles is over 2,000,000; the average depth is not generally known, but suffice it to say that if such a project should be started, and not under the complete control of those in charge of the work, the earth could, and no doubt would, be thrown off its present balance, and the surface of all the waters to a certain extent would be changed in their level, which could be ascertained with certainty if the actual sizes and depth could be known; "for if every grain of sand removed alters the balance of the world," what would this great change do? It might cause the "end of the world," which, according to the prophecy of "Mother Shipton," will be in 1891. In this project all the world is interested.

Naturalist's Portfolio.

A NEW TEA-PLANT.—A recent number of the Indian Tea Gazette reports that a new species of tea-shrub, resembling that which grows in China, has been discovered in Armenia, near Trebizond. The peasant pick the leaves and dry them in the sun, and large quantities have been sent to Persia, where the new product is highly appreciated.

A NEW USE FOR THE BANANA.—A new use has been found for the banana in Venezuela. It has the property of keeping the soil moist round it in a country where sometimes no rain falls for months; so it has been employed to give freshness, as well as shade to the coffee-plant, the cultivation of which has been greatly extended.

THE NIGHT HERON.—A fine specimen of that rare and interesting bird the "night heron" was shot on May 23, on a tree on the banks of the Black Devon, adjoining Allow Park, by one of Lord Mar's gamekeepers. So far as is known, this appears to be the second or third that has been met with in Scotland, and there is no record of any being seen since 1823.

THE PARROT AND THE BURGALAR.—Parrots are beginning to indicate their use, and pretty soon every household will be anxious to have one in each room. The other night a burglar extended a house in Brooklyn, and was just commencing operations, when a sharp voice shouted, "Get out of there!" The burglar dropped his "jimmy" and fled. "Poor Poll" knew how to apply his learning.—New York papers.

THE KAFFIRS OF SOUTH AFRICA.—The term "Kaffirs," which we have come to apply generally to certain tribes on the south-eastern coast of Africa, is not the national name, but one of reproach imposed on them as "infidels" by the Arabs; and it is equally applied to Europeans by Afghans, Turks, and other votaries of Islam. To anthropologists the so-called Kaffirs are known as Chinuas, Zingians, or Bantus. According to ethnological experts Africa is peopled by six different and distinct races, two of which, the Hamites and Semites, are foreign; and four—the Negroes proper, the Fulahs, the Bantus, and the Hottentots—indigenes.

THE PRESERVATION OF ANIMACULES.—The difficulty hitherto experienced by naturalists in preserving the minute animalcules which are develop in decaying animal or vegetable matter is said to have been overcome in France by Mons. Certes, of the Paris Academy of Sciences. He poisons the organisms with osmic acid, a substance whose action is so violent that it has to be carefully handled. The animalcules are exposed to the vapour of a weak solution of this acid for a short time, and are so fixed in their form by its action that the most delicate detail of structure appears distinctly under the microscope as when they were alive.

A couple of runaway lovers had a license to marry in Clark county, Ind., but the train on which they were eloping only touched the corner of that county, and without stopping. The ceremony would not be legal if performed in another county, unless a new license was obtained. In this dilemma they appealed to the conductor, who stopped the train for a few minutes on Clark county soil, while a clergyman hurriedly tied the knot. The passengers were permitted to kiss the bride as compensation for the delay.

The Emperor William is the fifth male member of the Hohenzollern family who has lived to celebrate his golden wedding. The first case was that of Johann, surnamed the Alchemist, born about 1403, and who died in 1464. The three sons of Frederick William I. had also more than fifty years each of married life—namely Frederick the Great, Prince Henry, and Prince August Ferdinand of Prussia. Of the four sons of Frederick William III., three celebrated their silver wedding, and Prince Charles, brother of the present emperor, who married the sister of the empress, was within a day or two of the golden ceremony in 1877, when his consort died.